



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2004

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, May 14, 2004 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: GROWING CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

Speaker: Bart O'Brien

Please join us May 14 for our chapter's seventh annual Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture.

Bart O'Brien will present a discussion of the issues related to growing California native plants. What should one consider when planting natives? How can our actions positively or negatively affect the functioning of biological systems?

Bart O'Brien is currently Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California. Bart has been with the garden since 1990, and is also current President of the Southern California Horticultural Society. Bart received a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from Harvard University, and is known as the author of numerous published articles on horticulture. Bart has introduced many native plant cultivars into the horticultural industry, and recently co-authored the planting guidelines for the LA river watershed.

Directions: From Foothill Expressway, travel ½ mile on San Antonio Road towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills on San Antonio Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road reads "Civic Center, Library and History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance, which faces a driveway located off San Antonio Road between Hillview and Edith. If the library lot is full, proceed to the adjoining lot for Hillview Community Center.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Chapter Vice President Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Spring Native Plant Sale May 8

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 8** at our nursery at Hidden Villa. Sale hours are **10am to 4pm**. Parking is free for the sale, but is limited, so we encourage everyone to carpool. Books, seeds, bulbs, and note cards will also be offered for sale. Please come, and tell your friends and neighbors about it, too!

Yerba Buena Nursery in Woodside is again generously offering a 20% donation to our chapter for all purchases made on May 15 & 16 using the coupon (only available in the printed copy of the newsletter). In addition, a lucky purchaser will receive a \$50 gift certificate from YBN, in a raffle drawn from the coupons that are redeemed. We hope you will participate in this opportunity to both help our chapter and support a local native plant nursery!

Directions: From 280, take the El Monte Rd/Moody Rd exit. Go west on Moody Road for 2 miles then look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and follow instructions from the parking volunteers.

Help Needed for Spring Native Plant Sale

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the plant sale! We still need volunteers, especially people to **help with parking control**, so if you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help with parking or if you want to help in some other way, please contact the plant sale co-coordinators: Janet Gomez at (408)978-2984 or jgomez51@sbcglobal.net; and Kevin Bryant at (408)639-0493 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

To help prepare the plants and nursery for the sale, on **Saturday and Sunday before the sale (May 1-2)** we'll have work sessions at the nursery from **10am to 4pm**. And

we'll have work sessions **Tuesday through Friday (May 4-7) from 12Noon to 4pm.**

Or if you'd like to help out another time, our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wed.** from **12noon to 4pm.**

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. We may need help weeding, cleaning the nursery, making signs, rearranging the pots and generally getting the place ready for the sale. Knowledge of plants is not necessary, your willingness to help is all that's required.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

Native Hill Transformed

by *Ellie Gioumousis*

We had a very successful workday with the help of the Santa Clara County Corrections Community Service department. They brought us 44 workers on Sunday, March 14 and Native Hill has been transformed.

All the large areas have been weeded and mulched with wood chips provided by Jess Running of Safe and Beautiful Trees. After a year or so the chips will decompose into soil and we will be able to have native annual flowers with very few weeds.

We are very grateful to this team and their leader for being so helpful and considerate of our request for help. It could not have happened without the help of CNPS members Maureen O'Brien, Ray Deutsch, Sue Welch, Pat Lison, Phil Higgins, and Betty Cherry, who came to help prepare the day before and supervise all of the hard working and helpful volunteers from the county. We are very grateful to all the people who helped with this.

All the large areas of heavy weed infestation have now been cleared and mulched as have most of the paths. We have left to do small areas needing more precise weeding around existing natives and other pockets that need extra work. It means we are on the way to being able to having the weeds under control.

Want to help out? We have one major workday left until next fall. It will be either **May 1 or 2, Saturday or Sunday, 9am to Noon.** Contact Ellie for details, or to arrange another time. She's at (650)494-6276 or elliegms@uf.znet.com.

Photography Group

Are you an avid field trip participant? Do you take your camera along to record what you see? If so, we would enjoy having you bring in your images to share with us. Recently we were treated to photos from Henry Coe State Park, and a talk on Macro Photography.

The Chapter photography group meets regularly on the second Monday of each month. The next meetings will be **Mondays, May 10 and June 14, from 7-9pm** in the Kestrel Room at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. Digital and slide projectors are available, or you can bring in your prints.

If you would like to be added to the email or phone lists, contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or jdwelch@yahoo.com.

Gardening With Natives

Gardening with Natives meets monthly at the PCC Building in Palo Alto. The group includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners and beginners. Newcomers are always welcome. Our next meetings will be **Thursdays, May 6, June 3 and July 1.** All meetings start at **7:30pm.** Our May meeting will be a 'Going Native Garden Tour' recap. Bring pictures (either hardcopy or digital) of native plant gardens to show and discuss with the group – photos of plants and gardens not on the tour are also welcome. Topics for June and July will be announced via the GWN email list.

Gardening with Natives is looking for help with the following:

- Organizing committee (compile meeting ideas)
- secretary (take and type meeting notes), and
- website committee.

Contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or (408)371-9376 to be added to the GWN newsletter email list, provide input, or receive more information.

Directions to the PCC: The PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center) is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. The first street on your right is Corporation Way. Turn right. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

Habitat Restoration: Edgewood Park

Join Ken Himes to help remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday sessions, at**

8:30 am, occur year-round. **Wednesday evening sessions begin at 5:30 pm.** More information including the schedule of Wednesday work and meeting places is available at edgewood.thinkersrus.net/schedule.html.

Or you may call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net. Here is the schedule for upcoming Wednesday evening work sessions:

Date	Meet at 5:30	Work Site
April 7	West Kiosk	West Kiosk area meadows
April 14	West Kiosk	Mow site 1
April 21	Day Camp	South wing of Sylvan Loop Trail
April 28	Day Camp	Edgewood Trail, Bush Mallow Site
May 5	West Kiosk	Mow site 3
May 12	West Kiosk	Mow site 1
May 19	West Kiosk	Elly's Meadow
May 26	West Kiosk	Mow site 1.5, Mule Ears Meadow

Field Trip Planning Meeting May 4

If you enjoy our field trips, and would like to help decide where we go next, join us for our next Field Trip Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, May 4 at 7pm** at Georgia Stigall's home near Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. You do not need to be able to lead a field trip, in order to contribute your ideas and enthusiasm!

Contact Georgia to RSVP and for directions at gstigall@aol.com or (650)941-1068. Early arrivals will be welcome for a walk around this private nature preserve, or to simply enjoy the views and quietude. In the event of May showers, we'll meet at the PCC instead.

Conservation Meeting May 19

The next chapter Conservation Committee meeting is **Wednesday, May 19 from 6-8pm** at the PCC. No matter what your conservation interests or experience are, we welcome your participation!

Currently, in addition to our on-going work on local projects and watershed issues, we are tracking two long-term proposals that could affect native plant habitats in the Mt. Hamilton Range: the California High Speed Rail project and a proposed 6-lane highway from I-5 to San Jose.

For more information contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

Chapter Member Wins Scholarship

Allison Green, a master's degree candidate at San Jose State, was awarded a \$500 state CNPS scholarship for her research on the effects of invasive grassland species on the rare annual jewelflower, *Streptanthus albidus* var. *peramoenus*.

Through her research, she will provide information on the potential for increasing populations of this edaphic endemic plant that is restricted to very rocky soil within serpentine grasslands in Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Georgia Stigall

Our chapter continues to focus on a wide variety of topics that we feel are equally worthy of our attention, from the very large and noticeable, to the very small and easy to miss.

Examples of the former include conservation threats to the biologically rich Diablo-Hamilton Range, our preservation efforts on behalf of Coyote Ridge, and our upcoming Spring events. Habitat restoration progress is being made at various sites throughout our Chapter. Other topics as discussed in this newsletter continue to both educate and entertain participants, as well as boost interest in our shared goals. Education outreach at other organizations' events increases our visibility to the public at large.

Last but not least, chapter field trips play a critical -- and joyful -- role in our efforts, and elsewhere in this newsletter we announce a field trip planning meeting at which we hope you will join us.

And it was on a very recent field trip, that we experienced one of the "very small and easy to miss" reasons we collectively work to preserve our native flora. On a field trip April 3 to Henry Coe State Park, we reacquainted ourselves with the miniscule *Tonella tenella*. In the Scrophularia (Figwort) family, the flower of this tiny gem is only 3mm across, brought to us in glorious beauty through our hand lens. Join us for a field trip, and see for yourself!

If you have any questions about the function and activities of our chapter, or wish to become more involved, please contact me or any other chapter representative to discuss your interest.

Contact Georgia at (650)941-1068 or gstigall@aol.com. See the end of this newsletter for other chapter contacts.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and enjoyment of California native plants and wildlife, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands on which we are visiting.

In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged & steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.

May 1, Sat. 10am Warm Springs Vernal Pools

Sue Macias, a graduate student at San Jose State University who is doing research here, will lead us into this area not open to the public. Group size is limited to 15. All travel is cross-country. Sturdy footwear is recommended since the terrain is rough and uneven and full of animal burrows. Bring sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Call Stella Yang at (408)255-6233 or Kevin Bryant at (408)639-0493 for reservations and directions.

May 2, Sun. 10am Calero County Park

Join Dick Gehrer and Stephen Buckhout for a beautiful wildflower hike at Calero Park. We will visit serpentine grasslands, regular grasslands, woodlands, and chaparral. With the cooperation of the seasons, expect to see a good display of serpentine wildflowers, which should include evening snow, Allium, Linanthus, Gilia, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak, and black sage. In order to reach the serpentine areas we will have to hike up hilly areas with an overall distance of approximately 6 miles.

The trip is expected to last until **1pm**. For additional information contact Dick Gehrer, (408)268-6922.

Directions: From Highway 85 South, exit Almaden Expressway South. Proceed to the end of Almaden Expressway, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Turn left on McKean Road. Continue about 3 miles, passing Calero Reservoir, to the Calero Park parking area on the right.

May 9, Sun. 9am Mt Hamilton

Enjoy a day of roadside botanizing on Mount Hamilton led by Lee Ellis. The west side, with several elevation changes, explores different plant communities with many wildflowers. We may see a new species of *Lomatium* near Lick Observatory (elev. 4,209 ft.). The east slope, steep

and dry, has its own interesting flora. Expect to see service berry, silk tassel, virgin's bower, goosberries, lupines, Penstemon, Clarkia, and many more. We'll end at Arnold Ranch, with a chance to get off the roadsides and explore the meadows.

The trip will last all day, with approximately 65 driving miles round trip. No gas is available along the route; so come with a full tank. The Mount Hamilton Road is a steep, narrow, twisting mountain road. Meet in the OSH parking lot at 3000 Alum Rock Ave. at **9am**.

Space is limited to 20; reservations are required. To reserve a space contact Lee Ellis at l.p.ellis@att.net or call (510)793-7383 between 9:30am and 11:30pm.

Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Riders will share gasoline costs with drivers. Bring liquids, lunch, **cup, plate and fork** for special dessert to celebrate Fanny Arnold's 80-something birthday, sun protection, and two-way radios (FRS) if you have them. Everyone will be expected to **contribute \$1** toward cake and punch to celebrate Fanny's birthday.

May 16, Sun. 10:30am Santa Cruz Sand Hills

Join botanist Valerie Haley for a trip to the Santa Cruz Sand Hills, part of the Zayante Sand Hills ecosystem. This ecosystem is endemic to inland marine sand deposits in the Santa Cruz Mountains. There are a number of rare species found there, including Ben Lomond spineflower, Santa Cruz wallflower, Ben Lomond buckwheat, and Santa Cruz mountain manzanita.

Valerie Haley is a SAND member and docent coordinator for the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve. Meet at Quail Hollow County Park.

Directions: Take Highway 17 toward Santa Cruz. Exit at Mt. Herman Road just past Scotts Valley and go right on Mt. Herman. Turn left onto Graham Hill and then left on E. Zayante. Go left on Quail Hollow Road. The park entrance is on the right.

For additional information contact Stella Yang at (408)255-6233 or Kevin Bryant at (408)639-0493.

May 22, Sat. 10am San Bruno Mountain

Join Ken Himes for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. We expect to see Indian paintbrush, hummingbird sage, and other late spring flowers on this 3.5 mile loop.

Bring lunch and liquids. Expect an elevation gain/loss of about 800 feet. Dress in layers to allow for variable

weather conditions. The hike is expected to last until 3:30pm. For more information, contact Ken at (650)591-8560.

Directions: Go North on Highway 101, take the Brisbane exit, and proceed North on Old Bayshore Highway past the small town of Brisbane. At the crest of a small hill, turn left onto Guadalupe Parkway. Follow Guadalupe uphill to the park entrance. We'll meet at the entrance parking lot. There is a \$5 parking fee.

May 23, Sun. 10am Forest of Nisene Marks

Join Kevin Bryant in an exploration of the upper portion of this State Park, the area near Santa Rosalia Mountain. We hope to see *Penstemon rattanii* var. *kleei*, the endemic Santa Cruz Mountains beardtongue, along with a few other less often seen plants, including a few old growth redwoods.

Meet at Kevin Bryant's house in Santa Cruz at **10am**; we will make stops on the way to the Forest of Nisene Marks to view some infrequently seen plants growing near the roadside. Carpooling is strongly encouraged, as parking is very limited in this section of the State Park. There's adequate parking near Kevin's house, and we will carpool from there taking the minimum number of vehicles. Also, the dirt fire road here could be rough if it hasn't yet been graded this year.

Bring lunch, plenty of liquids, and light clothing; as this area can be hot. Expected length of hike is less than 3 miles, with less than 400ft elevation gain/loss.

The trip is expected to last until **3:30pm**. For more information including directions to Kevin's house, contact Kevin at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

May 28-30, Fri-Sun. Memorial Day Weekend Sierra Nevada Middle Elevations near Arnold

Bring in the summer vacation season and join us as we explore the Sierra Nevada between 3,000 and 6,000 ft. elevation in the vicinity of Arnold (off Hwy. 4).

We will visit areas in Stanislaus National Forest and Calaveras Big Trees State Park in search of wildflower displays and native plant habitats that are a little different than what we are used to seeing in the Bay Area. We'll be camping on land owned by members of our chapter near the town of Arnold. Our first hike will be at **9:30am on Saturday May 29th**.

Please contact Kevin Bryant to register for this trip (no cost), and to receive details and directions, at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Jun 5, Sat. 10am Ring Mountain, Marin County

Join Doreen Smith, Rare Plant Coordinator for the Marin Chapter of CNPS. She knows the Marin flora intimately. *Calochortus tiburonensis* and *Hesperolinum congestum* should be in bloom plus lots of other serpentine species. This is the only place in the world *C. tiburonensis* has ever been found growing in the wild.

Directions: Car pooling is strongly encouraged. Meet at Edgewood Park and Ride at **8:30am** or at Ring Mountain at **10am**. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and continue on Highway 101. In Corte Madera, exit at Paradise Drive. The previous exit is Tiburon Blvd./Mill Valley. Go right on Paradise Drive about 1 mile past all the houses and a school on the left to the wide gravel pull-off just past Westward Drive. Look for the Marin County Open Space entrance sign, which is where we will meet.

Jun 6, Sun. 10am Grass Walk at Los Trancos OSP

Join Sally Casey to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, a sack lunch and water. Meet at **10am** in the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road, or meet to carpool at **9:30am** at the Park and Ride Lot at the intersection of Page Mill Road and Hwy 280.

The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. The walk should be completed by **2pm**.

Directions: Take Page Mill Road west from I-280. The parking lot is 7 miles west of I-280 on the right side, just past the entrance to the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2004

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	gstigall@aol.com
Vice President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 378-6272	judy@fenerty.com
Recording Secretary	David Chapman	(408) 323-1913	dcchapman@earthlink.net
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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 5, 2004

Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (408)255-3767